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The Postal Service could run out of money as soon as fall 2026. DOMINIC GWINN / GETTY IMAGES

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Postal unions and stakeholders wary as Trump nominates little-known picks to USPS board

The president has so far nominated four individuals to the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors; there are five vacancies.

SEAN MICHAEL NEWHOUSE | MARCH 24, 2026

POSTAL SERVICE



As the U.S. Postal Service contemplates service cuts due to [the prospect of running out of money as soon as fall 2026](#), President Donald Trump recently [nominated three additional individuals](#) to the postal agency's Board of Governors. Several unions and other stakeholders, however, reported that they are largely unfamiliar with his picks.

“[The National Association of Letter Carriers] is closely monitoring these unknown nominees and will actively work to ensure they have the best interests of the employees and the network before they are confirmed,” the union said in [a press release](#) responding to the nominations announcement.

The postal board nominees are: Robert Steffens of Texas, Jeffrey Brodsky and William Gallo, both of Florida.

Steffens is a longtime executive at Marvel Entertainment who in 2025 [sued the company's parent](#), Disney, alleging that he was told secondhand that he had been passed over for a promotion because he is “another old white guy.” The Trump administration has prioritized removing any federal programs that are determined to promote diversity, equity or inclusion.

According to [his LinkedIn](#) profile, Steffens most recently was the chief financial officer of a sports streaming company between October 2024 and January 2025.

The NALC described Gallo as a “retired commodities broker and entrepreneur.” According to [his LinkedIn](#) profile, he holds leadership positions in a medical supply company, entertainment business and real estate investment firm.

Postal governor nominees are [statutorily mandated](#) to be chosen based on the public interest and to have expertise in public service, law or accounting. Additionally, at least four of the governors are required to be selected based on their experience managing public or private organizations that employ at least 50,000 workers.

In January, the president [re-nominated Anthony Lomangino](#), who is [a Trump donor and waste management executive](#), to the USPS board. [The American Postal Workers Union has raised concerns over his nomination](#) because two of his companies have been bought by Waste Management. Postmaster General David Steiner previously served as CEO of that business.

Trump first nominated Lomangino in 2025, but the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee [did not take any action on it](#). So the nomination was returned to the president with the new year.

Last year, Trump also nominated John LaValle to be a postal governor, but [he withdrew the nomination after two months](#).

There are currently four governors on the USPS board — two Democrats, one Republican, one independent — leaving five vacancies. No more than five of them can be from the same political party.

NALC noted that the Senate has traditionally advanced postal nominees in bipartisan pairs, but all of Trump’s picks, so far, have been Republicans. [The president has attempted to remove Democratic members of several bipartisan agency boards](#), prompting legal challenges that have reached the Supreme Court.

Kathleen Siviter, the executive director at the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, said that a full board would improve postal governance.

“As we know from the past, when [the USPS Board of Governors went down to only one governor](#), it is imperative to have a full board to effectively manage the Postal Service,” she told *Government Executive* by email. “It will be interesting to see if the Senate determines that these recent nominations meet the requirements contained in the law outlining qualifications for USPS governors.”

Former Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan. — the executive director of Keep US Posted, a nonprofit advocacy group — expressed hope that the new slate of postal nominees may pivot USPS from its Delivering for America modernization plan.

“Should they be confirmed, [we] look forward to working with the new nominees, and we hope that they will bring a fresh outlook to former Postmaster General DeJoy’s Delivering for America plan before it does even more harm to the country’s mail network,” Yoder said in a statement to *Government Executive*.

Postal stakeholders and lawmakers from both parties have contended that Delivering for America has worsened USPS’ financial woes, but [Steiner and the postal board have argued that the plan has improved operations and produced savings](#). [G](#)

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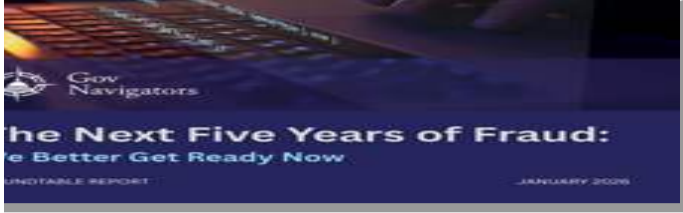


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Then-FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell testifies on Capitol Hill in 2024. In a recent interview, Criswell said critics of the agency were "lazy" and did not understand its role. KEVIN DIETSCH VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Former FEMA administrator reflects on tumultuous time for 'people-first' agency

Deanne Criswell, who led the agency under former President Joe Biden, said critics who want to shift responsibility to states and localities use a "lazy way" to characterize its mission.

CHRIS TEALE | MARCH 24, 2026

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



For four years, Deanne Criswell sat atop the Federal Emergency Management Agency as administrator and led its response to natural disasters, including Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

Those two hurricanes in late 2024 made for a tough time for the agency, which was the subject of various conspiracy theories and accusations that it deliberately denied relief to disaster victims that supported President Donald Trump, who had just won a second term. Florida's then-Attorney General Ashley Moody [even sued](#) FEMA and Criswell over the allegations and what she termed political discrimination, although the state later [dropped the lawsuit](#).

which she acknowledged has had some difficult moments since its founding in the late 1770s. Social media has accelerated the spread of misinformation about the agency, she added.

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“We're in a very different environment,” Criswell said. “FEMA has always been the subject of conspiracy theories from day one. You go back to April 1, 1979, when FEMA was created, and there probably was the first conspiracy theory on April 2. It's always been there.” Those conspiracy theories have seen accusations of the agency running camps, arming young people to take over communities, or being a shadow government.

The agency has stayed in the news since Criswell departed as former President Joe Biden left office. Outgoing Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem joined Trump in arguing that disaster relief should be more of a state-level responsibility and suggesting that FEMA be phased out altogether. U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin, an Oklahoma Republican that was just confirmed as her replacement, appears to have suggested [a different approach](#) focused on reforming the agency.

Noem also came under significant fire for introducing a policy that she had to personally approve any expenditure over \$100,000, which a Senate report [reportedly found](#) delayed aid from being released for weeks. Mullin said FEMA should be “[restructured](#)” and that he would ensure it is properly staffed once the Department of Homeland Security is no longer [shut down](#).

Talk of states having a larger role to play in disaster relief shows a fundamental misunderstanding of how FEMA works, Criswell said, as its role depends much on federalism. The agency can only employ its vast resources after a disaster if a request comes in from the affected state's governor. The agency's 10 regional administrators also play a key role in helping to pre-position resources ahead of expected disasters or major events. And Criswell said FEMA's critics take a “lazy way” in how they characterize the future role of the agency and seem to want the financial burden to shift onto states and localities.

“FEMA doesn't take over the response,” she said. “FEMA is not first responders. They don't send in firefighters. They can send in some urban search and rescue teams, but again, they come in to help stabilize. Those local first responders have the responsibility to manage that initial response. FEMA never has done that and never will. It's not their role. That's the role of the local jurisdiction.”

Criswell said, however, that FEMA needs reform and changes to some of its various programs and policies. It's something she became aware of as emergency manager for Aurora, Colorado and the commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management Department, even before taking the federal job in 2021. One program in need of “an overhaul” is FEMA's Public Assistance Program, Criswell said, which provides grants and other assistance to states, Tribes and territories when authorized by a declaration under the [Stafford Act](#).

But that overhaul should not involve transitioning to block grants to states, Criswell said, as that would place a massive oversight burden onto them and away from the federal government. Right now, money is distributed on a project-by-project basis, which, while imperfect, also takes into account bigger catastrophic disasters where the full damage isn't known for a year or more.

“My fear is that they're rushing into an oversimplified solution without thinking through the downstream effects and how that's going to impact state and locals, and then eventually, come back to the federal government,” Criswell said of those in charge at FEMA.

back decades, past the bungled response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. FEMA has continued to play an expanded role since then, whether it be in helping respond to the Ebola outbreak or the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those efforts and others make FEMA the “nation's problem solvers,” Criswell said, but it can be difficult in the age of social media to convince people an agency is working well. A lot of work lies ahead, then.


Government Executive

past, it's been much more reactive, but it moves so fast now. Trust is critical in all of this. But to me, it's really about communication, and how are we communicating in a way that is allowing people to get factual information instead of false information? I don't think we cracked that nut yet with the current situation that we find ourselves in."

A reimagined role for FEMA may require rethinking and renewed public-private partnerships. After leaving the agency, Criswell in February became a board member at AidKit, a public benefit corporation with a platform that helps government agencies and nonprofits administer aid.

"As we're continuing to have this conversation about shifting responsibility, whether that's financial responsibility or other responsibility, there is going to be a greater need for state and local jurisdictions to do some of the work that the federal government did in the past," she said. "Whether that means they're not getting the federal disaster declaration, so they have to manage more disasters within their own capability because they're not getting a federal declaration, or whether that means some of the federal assistance is just not going to be there anymore the way that they used to do it. And so it's going to put more onus on the state and local jurisdiction."

Criswell said despite previous obstacles and future challenges, FEMA remains a "people first" agency that is determined to help when called upon. And while she acknowledged it will also be fair game for criticism, its role in helping communities get back on their feet after some of the worst moments of their lives remains key.

"You see the people, you hear their stories, it reminds you of why you're there," she said. "It's also, for me, talking to the people, and seeing how neighbors help neighbors, and how people really come out to help each other. In the midst of all of this tragedy, it also shows me the greatest in humanity across all these events. While sometimes it might be short lived, it's really inspirational to really see how people come out just to help their neighbors." 

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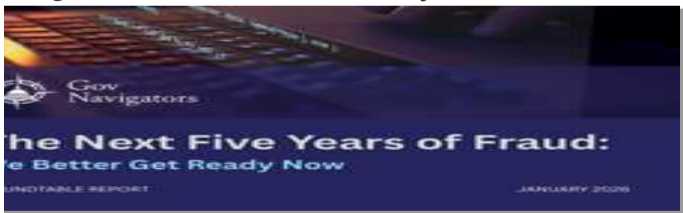


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